

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 H-02 /035 W
----- 043778

R 101415Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4539

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CGEN
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN EMBASSY CONSULAR ACTIVITIES

REFS: A. VIETS-DUNLOP LTR 8-25-75, PARA 7
B. DUNLOP-VIETS LTR 3-31-75, ITEM 6

1. WE HAVE COME ACROSS WHAT APPEARS TO BE SECOND INSTANCE OF FORMER ROMANIAN CONSUL IRINOIU'S PROVIDING ASSURANCES TO ROMANIAN CITIZENS STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN TO ROMANIA AND THEN LEAVE ROMANIA AGAIN SAFELY TO RESUME THEIR STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES, AS IN THE CASE OF MARIA BODNARAS (REFS).

THE INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED IN THIS INSTANCE, ANTON BALTA, HAS ALSO NOT BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE ROMANIA AGAIN.

2. BALTA WAS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT C.P. POST COLLEGE ON LONG ISLAND HAVING OBTAINED A SCHOLARSHIP THERE ON HIS OWN THROUGH THE AUSPICES OF THE LEAGUE FOR EDUCATION AND RELATED NEEDS (LEARN) FOUR LANCASTER PLACE, HUNTINGTON STATION, N.Y. 11746 HE COMPLETED HIS MA DEGREE IN MAY 1974 AND PLANNED TO RETURN THAT FALL FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET SETTLED ON THE UNIVERSITY WHERE HE WOULD WORK ON HIS DOCTORATE. BALTA SAYS HE WAS ADVISED BY BOTH THE COLLEGE AND OFFICIALS OF LEARN NOT TO RETURN TO ROMANIA UNTIL HE COMPLETED HIS STUDIES. HE, HOWEVER, WANTED TO RETURN IN ORDER TO MARRY

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AND THROUGH MARRIAGE LEGITIMIZED A CHILD OF HIS. AS A COMPROMISE,
PHILIP
R. WENTZEL, FOREIGN STUDENT ADVISOR AT POST COLLEGE, WROTE TO THE
ROMANIAN EMBASSY ON FEBRUARY 22, 1974 SEEKING ASSURANCES THAT BALTA
WOULD

BE ABLE TO RESUME HIS STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES. IRINOIU REPLIED
IN

A "DEAR SIR LETTER OF APRIL 2, 1974 (ADDRESS AND TITLE OF MR.

WENTZEL NOT GIVEN) WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS:

"ANSWERING YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 22, 1974

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT SINCE MR. ANTON BALTA IS NOW IN
POSSESSION OF A ROMANIAN PASSPORT FOR ROMANIAN
CITIZENS LIVING ABROAD, HE IS ALLOWED TO VISIT ROMANIA
AND RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITHOUT
DIFFICULTY."

ON THE BASIS OF THIS WRITTEN ASSURANCE, AND ON THE BASIS OF THE FACT
THAT

AFTER A NUMBER OF MONTHS DELAY BALTA HAS STILL BEEN GIVEN A ROMANIAN
PASSPORT VALID FOR RESIDENCE ABROAD (HE HAD COME TO THE STATES
DIRECTLY FROM WESTERN GERMANY WHERE HE HAD BEEN ATTENDING A LING-
UISTICS SYMPOSIUM) BALTA DECIDED TO RETURN TO ROMANIA IN THE SUMMER
OF 1974. HE RETURNED

AND WAS MARRIED BUT TEN DAYS AFTER HIS RETURN HIS PASSPORT
WAS PICKED UP AND HE WAS TOLD HE WOULD HAVE TO APPLY AGAIN
FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. IN THE INTERVENING
MONTHS HE HAS SOUGHT THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS TO OBTAIN THE
PERMISSION. AT ONE POINT HE ENCOUNTERED SOME SYMPATHY AT
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THE BASIS OF THE IRINOIU LETTER BUT
WAS TOLD THAT ALL HE COULD DO WAS TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM
THE GOVERNMENTAL PASSPORT COMMISSION. HE WAS GIVEN A NEGATIVE
RESPONSE BY A COMMISSION OFFICIAL ON SEPTEMBER 9. HE ALSO
MAINTAINS THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO TEACH ON THE GROUNDS
THAT HIS CONDUCT IN GOING TO THE STATES ORIGINALLY WITHOUT
PERMISSION AND ARRANGING A SCHOLARSHIP ON HIS OWN MAKES HIM
UNFIT FOR A TEACHING POSITION.

3. BALTA SAYS HE HAS BEEN IN ERRATIC CONTACT WITH HIS SPONSORS
IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH FRIENDS WHO PASS THROUGH ROMANIA
BUT IS CONVINCED THAT LEARN WOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST PARTIAL SUPPORT
FOR HIS DOCTORAL STUDIES. HE HAS PRESENTED US WITH STATE-
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MENTS DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 1974 SIGNED BY DR. ERIC A. HIRST,
PRESIDENT OF LEARN, ATTESTING TO HIS PREVIOUS GOOD RECORD AND
REFERRING TO HIS FUTURE PLANS. BALTA UNDERSTANDS THAT DR.
HIRST IS NOW ON SABBATICAL BUT BELIEVES THAT EITHER OF THE
FOLLOWING TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ACTIVE IN LEARN'S PROGRAMS
COULD CONFIRM HIS SITUATION AS COULD MR. WENTZEL.

MRS. NINA PHILLIPS
112 EAST 70TH ST.

NEW YORK, NY 10021

MR. NELSON SPRAGUE
63 RUSHMORE ST.
HUNTINGTON ST., NEW YORK 11746

BALTA ALSO SAYS THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH IN THE SPRING OF 1974
WITH ROSS TITUS IN EUR/SES AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD
AUTHORIZED EMBASSY BONN TO ISSUE A RE-ENTRY VISA TO THE US,
A VISA WHICH BALTA OBTAINED ON HIS WAY BACK TO ROMANIA IN THE
SUMMER OF 1974. BALTA IS ALSO TRYING THROUGH SOME OF HIS
AMERICAN ACQUAINTANCES TO INTEREST SENATOR JACKSON IN HIS
CASE.

4. OUR INCLINATION IS TO LINK THE BALTA AND BODNARAS
CASES IN THE SENSE OF COMPLAINING BOTH HERE AND IN WASHING-
TON ABOUT ROMANIAN EMBASSY PRACTICE OF EITHER (A) PROVIDING
ASSURANCES UNDER FALSE PRETENSES, OR (B) NOT FOLLOWING
THROUGH ON ASSURANCES IF THEY WERE GIVEN IN GOOD FAITH.
BEFORE DOING ANYTHING FURTHER ON THE BALTA CASE, HOWEVER
WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CHECKING WITH LEARN AND WITH
INDIVIDUALS
MENTIONED ABOVE TO DETERMINE WHETHER BALTA WOULD INDEED BE
SPONSORED WERE HE TO RETURN TO THE STATES FOR A DOCTORAL
PROGRAM. OUR ONE HESITATION HAS TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT
AFTER WHAT HE HAS BEEN THROUGH SINCE HE RETURNED TO ROMANIA,
BALTA MIGHT WELL CHOOSE TO REMAIN ABORAD IF HE ONCE LEFT
ROMANIA AGAIN. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE IRINOIU'S ACTIVITY
REQUIRES SOME SORT OF ACTION ON OUR PART.

5. COPIES OF DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED TO EUR/EE HARRY DUNLOP.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUCHAR04540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750313-0867
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750963/aaaacdwj.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <04 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMANIAN EMBASSY CONSULAR ACTIVITIES
TAGS: CGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006